



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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ALASKA FUR-SEAL SKINS UP 20 PERCENT AT FALL AUCTION

Lively bidding for Government-owned Alaska fur-seal skins at the fall auction held in St. Louis on October 6 by the Fouke Fur Company resulted in an average price increase of 19.5 percent over last April's auction, the Fish and Wildlife Service announced today.

Because of the new fashion trend to longer coats, the large matara sealskins were in particular demand and sold at \$123 each, the highest price paid in 27 years.

The average price for the entire offering of sealskins was \$57.92; at the spring auction it was \$48.73 per skin.

A total of 25,430 dressed, dyed, machined and finished fur-seal skins from the Pribilof Islands in Bering Sea was offered by the government at the October 6 public auction through its agent, the Fouke Fur Company of St. Louis. The gross proceeds from the sale of sealskins amounted to \$1,472,874 while an additional \$3,254 was realized from 523 blue fox and 20 white fox pelts. At the previous auction held on April 14 the total amount received was \$1,134,513 for 23,282 sealskins and \$6,524 for 632 fox skins.

At the fall auction all Alaskan regular sealskins averaged \$62.09, an increase of 18.9 percent. The average for all mataras was \$62.75, up 20.5 percent; safaris, \$55.71, up 23.3 percent; all blacks, \$39.92, down 2.4 percent.

The Union of South Africa sold 2,493 Cape of Good Hope fur-seal skins finished "Transveldt" at an average price of \$28.64, a decline of 3.6 percent.

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